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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0698
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0828

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 000257

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SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CEN, USUN JDELAURENTIS, IO/UNP JMARIZ.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [UN](#) [CS](#)

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE REQUESTED: BRITS SEEK U.S. RESPONSE TO
GOCCR'S UNSC REFORM PROPOSAL

1. (SBU) SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: The Costa Rican MFA issued a press release on March 10 highlighting a GOCCR proposal for UNSC reform. The MFA did not push anything new in terms of UNSC enlargement, its desire for greater access of non-permanent members, especially for small states, and its focus on Working Methods. However, the release noted that the GOCCR proposal would require changing the UN Charter. The British Embassy here asked for the U.S. position on March 25. Post requests guidance for responding, including the Department's/USUN's view and other P5 views. Please advise.
END SUMMARY

2. (U) The MFA reported that it had launched an "innovative proposal" that sought opportunities for UNSC representation among small and medium-sized states and could "unblock" reform discussions that have continued since the UN's creation. The proposal's three fundamental principles were rotation, re-election (dependent on performance and accountability), and an ineligibility clause requiring UNSC members to sit out a double term before being re-elected. On the final point, for example, a country that served one term and was not immediately re-elected would have to sit out at least twice the term's length before serving again. The release indicates -- but is not entirely clear -- that a re-elected country would serve the second term, and then would be required to sit out for twice the length of the combined two terms, to ensure opportunities for rotation. GOCCR recommends 3-year instead of two-year terms.

3. (U) The GOCCR expressed its "patent opposition" to extending permanent membership privileges of the P5 to other UN bodies. It noted that it was against adding new permanent members to the UNSC unless the number of non-permanent members were to be extended beyond ten. According to the MFA, the last sentence of Article 23.2 of the UN Charter would have to be modified to read: "Retiring members will not be eligible (for re-election) at all for a period of double the term" (unofficial translation). Post will forward the release by email to USUN and IO/UNP. On March 25, the British Embassy asked about the U.S. response.

4. (SBU) UNSC (and overall UN) reform remain an important objective of the Arias administration, so the content of this release -- consistent with what we have heard over recent months -- is not surprising. The fact that it was issued with no fanfare is somewhat puzzling, but other recent foreign policy developments (e.g., recognition of Cuba, SICA frictions and VP Biden's visit) have pushed UN issues aside. Of note, despite their overall importance to the Arias administration, there was not a single mention of UN-related issues in the GOCCR's proposed agenda for the bilateral meeting with the VP. We will consult further with MFA and report anything newsworthy.
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